

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01472 030607Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 /085 W

-----030609 127254 /15

P 030500Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9902

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1472

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, ID, PT, PFOR

SUBJ: TIMOR - LABOR MP'S LETTER TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REF: A. CANBERRA 1739, B. STATE 46284

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER:

BEGIN TEXT:

24 FEBRUARY 1977

DEAR MR. FRASER,

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WE AS MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HAVE SINCE THE
INDONESIAN INVASION OF EAST TIMOR BECOME INCREASINGLY
CONCERNED AT REPORTS OF ATROCITIES PERPETRATED AGAINST
THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF EAST TIMOR. RECENT INFORMATION
WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMS OUR BELIEF THAT THE INDONESIAN
ARMY IS ENGAGING IN ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL ACTS OF IN-

HUMANITY SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

ON 17 NOVEMBER 1976 WE WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT FROM INDONESIAN CHRISTIAN AID SOURCES. THE REPORT DOCUMENTED WIDESPREAD KILLINGS AND DESTRUCTION BY INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES.

SINCE THAT TIME A FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL REPORT DETAILING FIRST HAND WITNESSES TO POST-INVASION EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR HAS BEEN SENT TO US. THE REPORT IS BASED UPON INTERVIEWS WITH EAST TIMORESE REFUGEES NOW LIVING IN PORTUGAL, WHO WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE EAST TIMOR AFTER AUGUST 1976. THE REPORT IS BY MR. JIM DUNN, FORMER AUSTRALIAN CONSUL IN EAST TIMOR, AND CURRENTLY HEAD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH SERVICE.

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE REPORTS THAT UP TO 100,000 PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIED IN EAST TIMOR. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE TOTAL POPULATION OF EAST TIMOR PRIOR TO THE INVASION WAS 650,000. THIS WOULD MAKE IT ONE OF THE WORST ATROCITIES OF OUR TIMES.

WE ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE REPORTS PLUS MR. JIM DUNN'S QTE TIMOR STORY END QTE FOR YOUR INFORMATION. WE DO ASK YOU, AND ANY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES THAT YOU FEEL MAY NEED TO SEE THE REPORTS, TO TREAT THEM ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN EAST TIMOR WE ASK YOU IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INTERESTS OF HUMANITY TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS MATTER ON THE COMMITTEE, AND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF TAKING CONCRETE STEPS TO STOP THIS TRAGEDY AND ENSURE THAT THE EAST TIMORESE RECEIVE THEIR RIGHTS PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS.

SEVERAL AREAS WE BELIEVE COULD BE EXPLORED. WE ARE CURRENTLY PRESSING FOR A SENATE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ON THESE ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES HAS SEVERAL MAJOR LINKS WITH INDONESIA. PERHPAS THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE EAST TIMORESE.

WE HOPE THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RAISE THIS MATTER AND PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE EAST TIMORESE DURING THIS TIME OF SUFFERING.

YOURS SINCERELY,

SIGNED: THE HON TOM UREN, MHR
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

MR. KEN FRY, MHR

SENATOR GEORGE GEORGES
OPPOSITION WHIP

SENATOR ARTHUR GIETZELT
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

SENATOR JIM KEEFEE
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
IN THE SENATE

SENATOR CYRIL PRIMMER
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2. THE ABOVE MEMBERS ARE ALL FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE ALP.
HARGROVE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TEXT, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, POLITICAL LEADERS, INVASIONS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER01472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770072-1039
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From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 23b1d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3222803
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Subject: TIMOR - LABOR MP'S LETTER TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TAGS: PFOR, AS, ID, PT, (FRASER, DONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23b1d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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